



From the Director of Victim Services

These are confusing, stressful times for all of us. As the coronavirus pandemic affects numerous facets of our society, it also impacts each person in different ways. The disruptions to daily life are already being felt by many; school closures, church closures, and the comforting social gatherings that usually fill our weekends

are off limits. We are all feeling uncertain about what could happen in the coming weeks, as we hope to slow the spread of this pandemic. Feelings of anxiety and uncertainty are completely normal during times like these.

If you need support coping with the events of the last few weeks, there is advice and help available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a webpage with information on dealing with fear, anxiety, and stress brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

It is important to realize that social distancing does not have to mean social isolation, especially with modern technologies available to many of us. Connecting with our friends and loved ones, whether by high tech means or through simple phone calls, can help us maintain ties during stressful days ahead and will give us strength to weather this difficult time.

Tamika Dobbins

April 2020

Inside this issue:

Victim Services Highlight

Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Prevention Month

NCVRW

Upcoming Events

Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

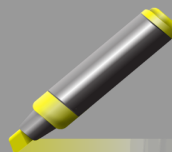
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights.....



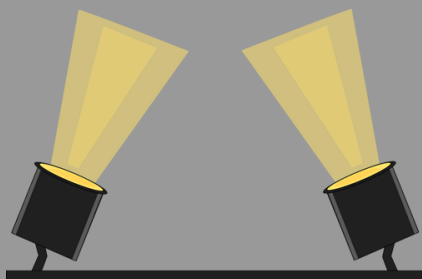
Mackenzie Britt, currently serves as the Director of Victim Witness Services for the Nashville District Attorney's Office. Mackenzie began her professional career at the District Attorney's office as in an intern in the spring of 2011. After the conclusion of her internship, Mackenzie was hired on as a full-time employee in the Domestic Violence Unit, serving crime victims and specializing in domestic violence cases. In 2013, she transitioned into a role in Criminal Court, serving crime victims and dealing with the most serious criminal offenses such as homicides, aggravated robberies, and sexual

assaults. In 2014, she was appointed to her current role as Director of Victim Witness Services, where she manages nineteen employees who provide services to crime victims.

Mackenzie is a graduate of Lipscomb University's Social Work Department and upon graduation received the Outstanding Social Worker of the Year Award, for recognition in academics, interpersonal, and professional practice skills. She also graduated summa cum laude with her master's degree in Leadership and Public Service at Lipscomb University in 2017.

Mackenzie currently serves on the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference (TNDAGC) Victim Witness Steering Committee, the Family Safety Center Training and Outreach Committee, as well as the Season to Remember, Crime Victim Rights' Week, and Children's Memorial Garden planning committees. The Nashville Coalition to End Domestic Violence with the Brenda Brown Award recognized her for Outstanding Advocate in 2013, and in 2019 Mackenzie was nominated for Leadership Nashville and nominated as one of Nashville's Emerging Leaders through the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.

Mackenzie is continually focused on assisting her staff to provide the best services to crime victims in Nashville.



April: Sexual Assault Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention Month

Nationally, April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)**. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. This year SAAM is celebrating its 19th anniversary with the theme "I Ask", which reminds us that by practicing respect and consent in everyday situations, both in person and online, we can prevent sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse. The self-reported incidence of rape or sexual assault more than doubled from 1.4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2017 to 2.7 in 2018. Despite the increase in self-reports of rape and sexual assault, there was a decrease in reporting to police from 2017 to 2018. Forty-percent (40%) of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to police in 2017, but only about 25% were reported to police in 2018. The Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN), organizes the National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline. The Hotline is a referral service that can put you in contact with your local rape crisis center. You can call the Hotline at 1-800-656-4673.

April is also **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. April was designated as Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month by presidential proclamation in 1983. The observance raises awareness about child abuse prevention by educating individuals and communities about how they can help prevent abuse and neglect of children. We each play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities. The United States federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum, "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation" and/or "an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm". The most common type of maltreatment is neglect. In Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018, about 4.3 million reports were made to child protective services concerning the safety and well-being of approximately 7.8 million children. Last year, an estimated 678,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect nationwide. You may report abuse in Tennessee by calling the 24-hours confidential child abuse hotline at 877-234-0004.

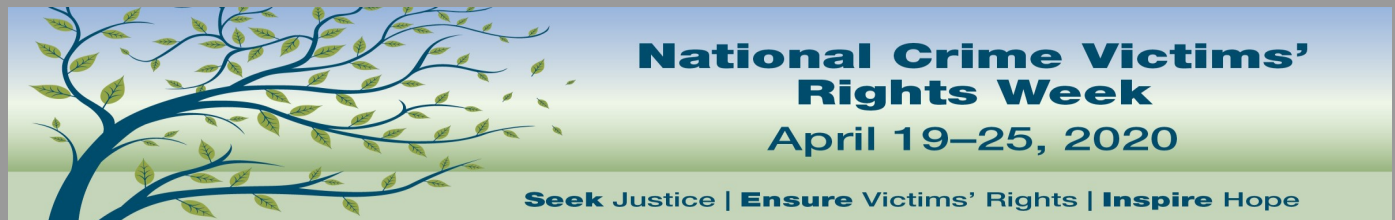


National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2020

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) creates an opportunity for communities to come together and reflect on the history of crime victims' rights. Established by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, NCVRW is celebrated every year in April. The week is dedicated to promote victim rights and services, learn about victimization and its effects, and promote laws and policies to help crime victims. This year's theme is ***Seek Justice | Ensure Victims' Rights | Inspire Hope***, which underscores the importance of seeking justice for all victims of crime, ensuring that crime victims' rights are honored, educating the public about those rights, and inspiring hope for individual survivors and communities.

In 1998, Tennessee Victim's Bill of Rights passed. To preserve and protect the rights of victims of crime to justice and due process, victims shall be entitled to the following basic rights:

1. The right to confer with the prosecution.
2. The right to be free from intimidation, harassment and abuse throughout the criminal justice system.
3. The right to be present at all proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present.
4. The right to be heard, when relevant, at all critical stages of the criminal justice process.
5. The right to be informed of all proceedings, and of the release, transfer or escape of the accused or convicted person.
6. The right to a speedy trial or disposition and a prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction or sentence.
7. The right to restitution from the offender.
8. The right to be informed of each of the rights established for victims and to be treated with dignity and respect.



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	March
Phone calls Received/Returned	106
Parties Registered for Notifications	192
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	8
Referrals	11
Release/Parole Inquiry	19
Other	55

Notifications	March
Registration	256
Movement	94
Advance Release	401
Final Release *	58
Death	12
Other	146

Announcements



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THE CLOCK STARTS TICKING ON
MAY 6 AT 6 P.M.

Donate to support the
Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence



TheBigPayback.org/tncoalition

#BigPayback



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end slavery.
TENNESSEE

episode 001

stephanie.
SURVIVOR STORY

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